

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

THE FOLLOWING LISTING OF CLAIMS WILL REPLACE ALL PRIOR
VERSIONS, AND LISTINGS, OF CLAIMS IN THE APPLICATION:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of producing a pneumatic tire comprising a pair of bead portions, a pair of side wall portions extending from the respective bead portions, a tread portion between the side wall portions, a radial carcass ply toroidally extending between the bead portions for reinforcing the side wall portions and the tread portion, at least one reinforcing layers arranged in side surface areas of the tire extending from the bead portions to the side wall portions, respectively; and an inner liner rubber, wherein the method comprises the steps of:

- ~~forming~~ preforming or forming *in situ* said reinforcing layer as an annular laminated body ply, by spirally winding and laminating a ribbon of an unvulcanized rubber having a thin gauge and oriented ~~embedding~~ short fibers embedded therein; ~~and~~

- wherein ~~applying~~ the annular laminated body is applied to a green tire at a position corresponding to the ~~a~~ side surface area of the tire, between an outer rubber and the inner liner rubber, ~~upon formation of a green tire for the tire to be produced.~~

2. (Original) A method of producing a pneumatic tire according to claim 1, wherein said annular laminated body is applied along, and adhered to at least one side of said carcass ply.

3. (Original) A method of producing a pneumatic tire according to claim 1, wherein said annular laminated body is applied along, and adhered to at least one side of a bead filler rubber.

4. (Original) A method of producing a pneumatic tire according to claim 1, wherein said annular laminated body is applied to form at least a part of a bead filler rubber.

5. (Currently Amended) A method of producing a pneumatic tire according to claim 1, wherein said annular laminated body is preformed by supplying the ribbon from an extruder to a rotating carrier, and said preformed annular laminated body is applied along, and adhered to the carcass ply and/or a side surface of a bead filler rubber.

Q6 6. (Currently Amended) A method of producing a pneumatic tire according to claims 1, wherein said annular laminated body is formed in situ by supplying the ribbon is ~~supplied~~ from an extruder onto a rotating carrier on which the green tire is formed, and the ribbon is laminated, ~~and~~ applied along, and adhered to the carcass ply and/or a side surface of a bead filler rubber, thereby forming the annular laminated body.

7. (Original) A method of producing a pneumatic tire according to claim 1, wherein said ribbon is applied so that said short fibers are oriented in the circumferential direction of the tire.

8. (Currently Amended) A method of producing a pneumatic tire according to claim 1, wherein said ribbon is extruded from a positive displacement ~~type~~-extruder.

9. (Original) A method of producing a pneumatic tire according to claim 1, wherein said ribbon is applied so that said short fibers are randomly oriented in the reinforcing layer of the tire.

10. (Currently Amended) A method of producing a pneumatic tire according to claim 1, wherein said ribbon is extruded from a screw ~~type~~-extruder.